REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed on April 3, 2006.

Concurrently with this paper, Applicant submits a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE"). Deposit Account 20-0823 may be charged a fee of $395 (fee code 2801) for the RCE.

Claims 23-49 are pending in the application. Claims 1-22 have been cancelled. Deposit Account 20-0823 may be charged a fee of $250 (fee code 2202) for the 5 additional dependent claims.

It is believed that no other fees are due in connection with this paper. However, in the event that any additional fees are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, any such fees are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account 20-0823. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, all of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on the grounds that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action states that the computer implemented method and system lack a tangible, concrete result by failing to specify the outcome of the transforming step. As amended herein, newly added independent claims 23, 34, and 48 require the authentication of the identity of an individual based on a biometric signal. This is accomplished by providing biometric information of known classification from which output statistics are generated. A transform is then computed based on the output and the transformed output is normalized. The normalized output allows the biometric signal be classified as authentic or spurious, and this is in turn used to authenticate the identity of the individual. The common biometric features used include the face, fingerprints, hand geometry, handwriting, iris, retinal, vein, and voice. *See, e.g.,*

http://www.biometrics.org/html/introduction.html. The specification describes several examples, including a pattern recognition system where the biometric information is a person's speech. Application page 4, lines 11-20. The specification also describes an example of a pattern recognition system where the biometric information is based upon iris analysis. Application page 4, footnote 6. In other words, the system and method of the present invention, processes biometric information about a person to confirm whether that person is who he or she claims to be. Because the recited invention produces a concrete and tangible result -- that is, the classification of unclassified biometric information as authentic or spurious and thus the authentication of an individual's identity based thereon -- the recited invention meets the requirements of §101 and is patentable.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding office action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any outstanding issues regarding the present application, he is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: MAY30, 2006

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